

Voluntary Report - public distribution

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## Romania

### Livestock and Products

#### Romania Lowers Import Duty for Pork Cuts

2003

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**Report Highlights:**

The GOR has officially decided to suspend (up to December 31, 2003) import duties for pork cuts. This new regulation is expected to expand U.S. export opportunities to Romania. The Romanian market is much dependent on pork imports, which represent about 50 percent of all domestically processed meat of swine.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Sofia [BU1]  
[RO]

In October 2003, the GOR issued regulations (Government Decision 1146, amended by Government Decision 1185) which temporarily suspended duties on imported pork cuts (see table below). The new regulation became official on October 14 when it was published, in its final form, in the Official Gazette. The validity of the regulation will be effective until December 31, 2003 and is effective for all countries, including imports from the United States, the European Union, and the Central European Free Trade Area (CEFTA). Through the same Decision, the GOR also abrogated safeguard measures applied against Poland since July 2003. The GOR will review the results of this trade action and will decide if an extension is necessary.

The measure was needed because domestic supply of quality swine meat for processing is very limited, though livestock numbers and overall meat production has increased slightly increasing for the last two years. AgBucharest, in cooperation with the U.S. Meat Export Federation, identified this issue and repeatedly requested to Romanian officials better access into Romania for select pork cuts. Domestic pork prices rose after July 2003, when the country enforced a 45% safeguard tariff on Polish pork, thus reducing Polish sales in Romania.

The waiver on import duties is expected to result in better export opportunities for U.S. frozen pork cuts and offalls. Albeit not a major supplier of the Romanian meat processing industry, the U.S. shipped over 500 MT of swine meat in 2002. This figure more than doubled only in the first five months of 2003.

<b>HS Code</b>	<b>Product with zero duty (through 12/03)</b>
0203	Meat of swine, fresh, chilled, frozen
-0203.2211	Hams and parts thereof
-0203.2219	Shoulders and parts thereof
-0203.2915	Bacon and parts thereof
-0203.2955	Boneless (trimmings, loins)
0206	Offalls fresh, chilled, frozen
-0206.4920	Pig maw
-0209.0011	Lard, fresh, chilled, salted